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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,371	09/17/2003	Jorge L. Orbay	JGPAT03a03US	4572
36822 7590 07/13/2007 GORDON & JACOBSON, P.C. 60 LONG RIDGE ROAD SUITE 407 STAMFORD, CT 06902			EXAMINER RAMANA, ANURADHA	
			ART UNIT 3733	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/13/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/664,371

Applicant(s)

ORBAY, JORGE L.

Examiner

Anu Ramana

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-81 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/29/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective since it does not have the correct statement with respect to the duty to disclose, namely, "I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations Section 1.56" It is suggested that Applicants use the standard PTO/SB/01 form.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 38 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 38, "said first set of threaded peg holes" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 64, "said proximal alignment hole" lacks antecedent basis.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of claims 47, 76 and 79. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3733

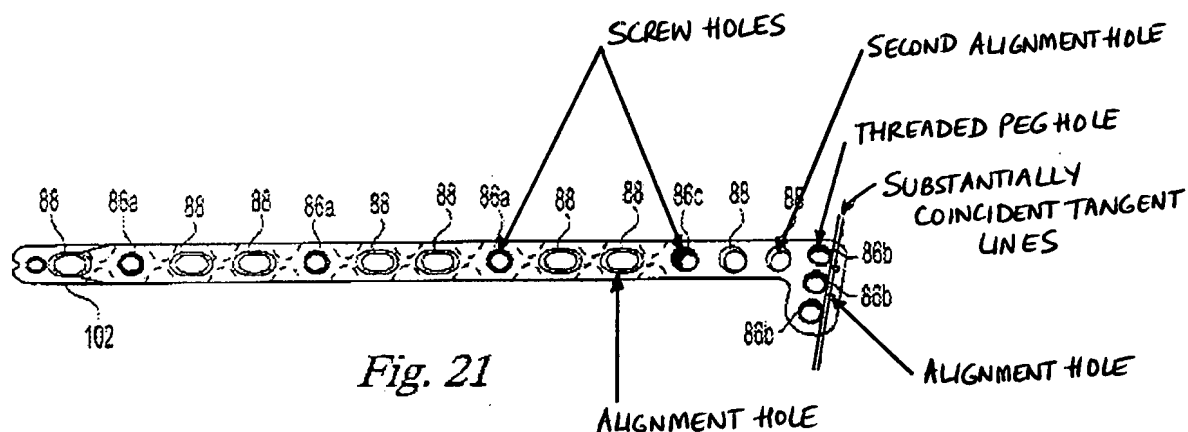
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 37-41, 45-48, 51, 53-57, 70-79 and 80 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weaver et al. (US 6,623,486).

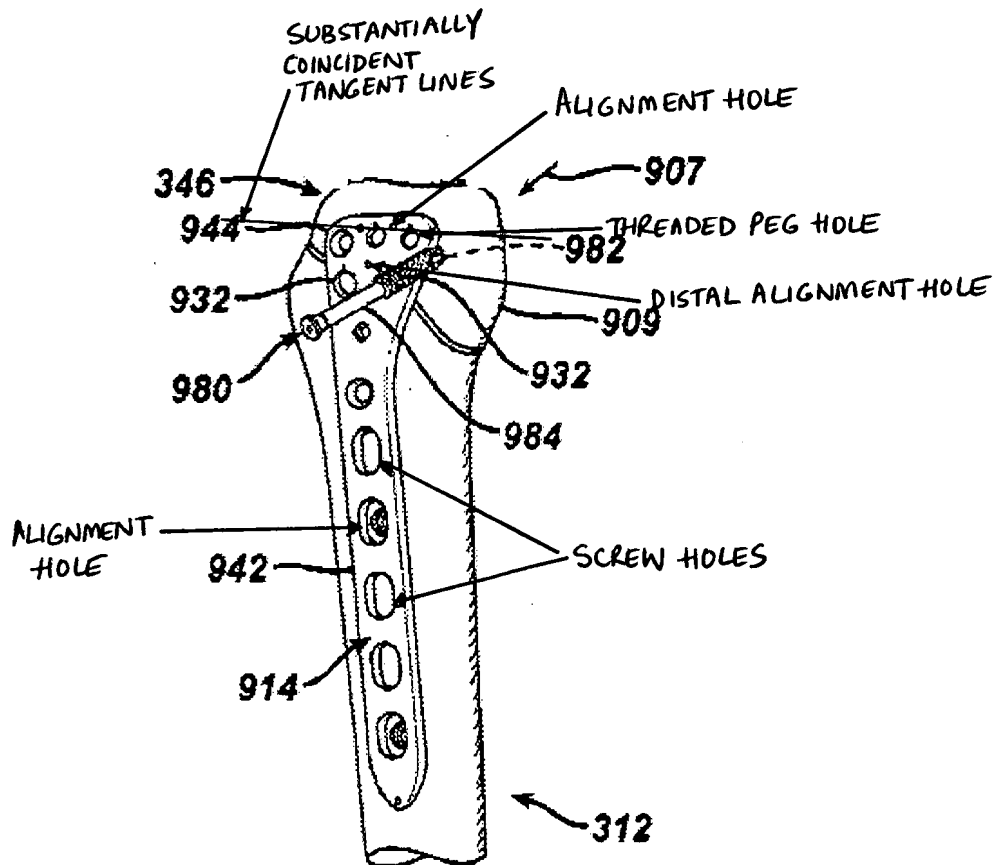
Weaver et al. disclose a bone fixation plate 80 including: a first set of threaded holes 86b; alignment holes much smaller in diameter than the threaded holes for provisional fixation of the bone plate; a second alignment hole 88; and a plurality of screw holes 86a in the shaft of the bone plate (Fig. 21, col. 6, lines 58-67 and col. 7, lines 1-17). See marked up Fig. 21 from Weaver et al. below.



Claims 37-43, 45-46, 48-51, 53-59, 62, 64-75, 77-78, 80 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wack et al. (US 2004/0030339 A1).

Wack et al. disclose a plate 914 defining a first set of peg holes structurally adapted to engage a threaded head of a fixation peg and at least one non-threaded alignment hole 871 having a second relatively small diameter wherein the first alignment

hole defines a tangent line substantially coincident with a line tangent to the first set of threaded (Figs. 20-22 and paras [0118]-[0162]). See a portion of Fig. 20 marked up to show features of Applicant's invention below.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 44, 52 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wack et al. ((US 2004/0030339 A1) in view of Klaue et al. (US 5,002,544).

Wack et al. disclose all elements of the claimed invention except for the specific shape of the hole.

Klaue et al. teach providing a hole in a bone plate wherein the hole has a wider cross section toward the bone application side of the bone plate in order to permit the insertion and gliding of inclined screws or fixation members (Fig. 5 and col. 2, lines 59-68).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided holes having a cross section as taught by Klaue et al. in the bone plate of Wack et al. to permit the insertion and gliding of inclined fixation members.

The combination of Wack et al. and Klaue et al. discloses all elements of the claimed invention except for the shape of the hole at the upper surface of the bone plate being circular and the shape of the hole at the bottom surface of the bone plate being oblong. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have constructed the hole with the claimed cross sectional shapes at the upper and lower surfaces of the bone plate, since applicant has not disclosed that this solves any stated problem or is anything more than one of numerous shapes or configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing a hole in a bone plate. In re Dailey and Eilers, 149 USPQ 47 (1966).

Claims 47, 76 and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wack et al. ((US 2004/0030339 A1).

Wack et al. clearly disclose alignment holes 871 in the head portion of the bone plate (para [0139]).

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided n-1 alignment holes

for n peg holes, since Applicant has not disclosed that providing a specific number of alignment holes between a specific number of peg holes provides an advantage. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected the Wack et al. bone plate and applicant's invention, to perform equally well with either $n+1$ alignment holes for n peg holes or the claimed " $n-1$ alignment holes for n peg holes" because both numbers of alignment holes would perform the same function of provisionally fixing the plate to the bone.

Claims 44, 52 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver et al. (US 6,623,486) in view of Klaue et al. (US 5,002,544).

Weaver et al. disclose all elements of the claimed invention except for the specific shape of the hole.

Klaue et al. teach providing a hole in a bone plate wherein the hole has a wider cross section toward the bone application side of the bone plate in order to permit the insertion and gliding of inclined screws or fixation members (Fig. 5 and col. 2, lines 59-68).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided holes having a cross section as taught by Klaue et al. in the bone plate of Weaver et al. to permit the insertion and gliding of inclined fixation members.

The combination of Weaver et al. and Klaue et al. discloses all elements of the claimed invention except for the shape of the hole at the upper surface of the bone plate being circular and the shape of the hole at the bottom surface of the bone plate being oblong. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have constructed the hole with the claimed cross sectional shapes at the upper and lower surfaces of the bone plate, since applicant has not disclosed that this solves any stated problem or is anything more than one of numerous shapes or configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing a hole in a bone plate. In re Dailey and Eilers, 149 USPQ 47 (1966).

Claims 65-69 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver et al. (US 6,623,486) in view of Putnam et al. (US 5,586,985).

Weaver et al. disclose all elements of the claimed invention except for the use of K-wires for provisional fixation of bone plate 80.

Putnam et al. teach the use of K-wires for provisional or temporary fixation of a bone plate (col. 7, lines 34-38).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized K-wires as taught by Putnam et al. to temporarily fix the Weaver et al. bone plate to bone since it was well known in the art to use K-wires to temporarily or provisionally fix a bone plate to bone.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on April 18, 2007 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection made in this action.

The Terminal Disclaimer filed on April 18, 2007 has been approved. Accordingly, the double patenting rejections made in the previous office action have been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 38, 44, 47, 52, 57, 63 and 67 is withdrawn in view of the new rejections made in this action. The Examiner apologizes for any inconvenience caused to the Applicant by this action.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anu Ramana whose telephone number is (571) 272-4718. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 3733

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached at (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AR
July 4, 2007



ANURADHA RAMANA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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